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Immediate Release

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Environment Secretary Ron Curry Appoints Six to Environmental Justice Policy Committee

(Santa Fe, NM) — New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) Secretary Ron Curry has announced the appointment of six business and environmental representatives to the Department's Environmental Justice Policy Committee. The members of this committee will make policy recommendations to Secretary Curry in an effort to help institute changes and address issues raised during NMED's currently ongoing Environmental Justice Listening Sessions.

The appointees are:

Regina Romero, Intergovernmental Relations Director, New Mexico Municipal League
Douglas Meiklejohn, Executive Director, New Mexico Environmental Law Center
Cindy McGill, PNM Vice President and Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce Vice Chair
Pablo Padilla, UNM law student, founding member of the New Mexico Intertribal Resource Advisory Commission and member of the Zuni Pueblo
Marla Shoats, Shoats & Weak Government and Public Relations, and
Richard Moore, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice.

The committee will be chaired by NMED Deputy Secretary Derrith Watchman-Moore.

"I look forward to working with this diverse group on these very important environmental justice issues," said Deputy Secretary Watchman-Moore. "I hope that by working together, business and environmental interests can find common ground and shared solutions to environmental injustice."

NMED is currently undertaking a statewide plan to study and address the issue of environmental justice. By tackling this issue, NMED hopes to ensure that no population in New Mexico is exposed to a disproportionate amount of the negative human health and environmental impacts of pollution or other environmental hazards.

To help collect information from the public on possible cases of environmental justice, NMED is holding four listening sessions. These meetings are meant to give New Mexicans an opportunity to provide input and comment on environmental justice in their communities.

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Future sessions are planned for Acoma at the Sky City Hotel on July 27 and in Albuquerque on August 17-19. EJ listening sessions have been held in Deming on June 30 and Las Vegas on July 21.

Representatives from NMED, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and other local or Tribal governments will be in attendance at these sessions to personally hear concerns. Any person or organization that wishes to provide oral comments will be given five minutes to present their environmental justice concerns. Written statements can also be submitted during the session or by mail. Please send all comments to: EJ Listening Session Workgroup, 801 University Boulevard SE, Suite 302, Albuquerque, NM, 87106. These recommendations will be used to formulate community-based policies and planning initiatives.

For further information contact Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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